

IN THE CLAIMS

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- 1 (Currently Amended). A steam kettle lid assembly, comprising:
an elongated arm movable between an upward position and a downward position, a downwardly extending boss positioned at an intermediate point along the arm, the boss including a pin receiving opening therein, the arm having a first end located away from the boss;
a lid including a centrally positioned projection extending from an upper surface thereof, the projection including a pin receiving opening therein, the projection positioned within the boss of the elongated arm with the pin receiving opening of the boss aligned with the pin receiving opening of the projection, the lid including a condensate rim extending from a lower surface thereof and positioned toward a first side of the lid;
a pin passing through the aligned pin receiving openings for coupling the projection to the boss and for preventing significant rotational movement of the lid so as to maintain a desired rotational position of the condensate rim relative to the first end of the arm; and
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wherein a cross-sectional size of the pin is smaller than a size of the pin receiving opening of the projection so that some spacing is provided between the pin and the pin receiving opening [to permit floating] thereby enabling movement of the projection and the lid in multiple directions relative to the pin, where such movement includes movement other than pivotal movement about the pin.
- 2 (Previously Amended). The steam kettle lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the elongated arm includes a pivoting connection at the first end for permitting movement thereof.
- 3 (Original). The steam kettle lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the projection is welded to the lid.
- 4 (Original). The steam kettle lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the lid includes a through hole and the projection comprises a portion of a member which extends through the through hole.
- 5 (Original). The steam kettle lid assembly of claim 1 wherein an end surface of the boss is spaced from the upper surface of the lid.

6 (Original). The steam kettle assembly of claim 1 wherein the boss includes an opening through which the arm passes for securing the boss to the arm.

7 (Currently Amended). A lid assembly, comprising:

an elongated arm movable between an upward position and a downward position, the arm having a first end;

a lid including a condensate rim extending from a lower surface thereof and positioned toward a first side of the lid;

wherein one of the arm and the lid includes a female coupling member extending therefrom at a location away from the first end and having a coupling opening therein and a fastener receiving opening therein, and the other of the arm and the lid includes a male coupling member extending therefrom, the male coupling member having a fastener receiving opening therein, the male coupling member positioned within the coupling opening of the female coupling member such that the fastener receiving opening of the female coupling member is aligned with the fastener receiving opening of the male coupling member;

a fastener passing through the aligned fastener receiving openings for coupling the male coupling member to the female coupling member and for preventing significant rotational movement of the lid so as to maintain a desired rotational position of the condensate rim relative to the first end of the arm; and

wherein a size of the fastener is smaller than a size of the fastener receiving opening of the male coupling member so that some spacing is provided between the fastener and the fastener receiving opening to [permit floating] enable movement of the lid in multiple directions, where such movement includes movement other than pivotal movement about an axis of the fastener.

8 (Original). The lid assembly of claim 7 wherein the male coupling member extends from the lid and the female coupling member extends from the arm.

9 (Original). The lid assembly of claim 7 wherein the female coupling member extends from the lid and the male coupling member extends from the arm.

10 (Original). The lid assembly of claim 7 wherein the female coupling member comprises a boss and the male coupling member comprises a cylindrical projection.

11 (Currently Amended). A method of attaching a steam kettle lid for movement between an open position relative to an opening of a steam kettle and a closed position relative the opening of the steam kettle, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an arm movable between an upward position and a downward position;

providing a lid with a condensate rim extending from its lower surface and located toward a side portion of the lid;

providing a female coupling member on one of the arm and the lid;

providing a male coupling member on the other of the arm and the lid;

connecting the female coupling member to the male coupling member in a manner which permits [floating] relative movement [of the lid relative to the arm] between the female coupling member and the male coupling member, including movement other than relative pivoting between the female coupling member and the male coupling member, but prevents significant rotational movement of the lid to maintain the condensate rim in a substantially fixed rotational alignment with a side of the steam kettle so that when the arm is moved to the upward position the condensate rim is positioned to direct condensate back into the steam kettle.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein the connecting step involves providing a fastener opening in the first coupling member and a fastener opening the second coupling member, aligning the fastener openings, positioning a fastener in the aligned openings, and sizing the fastener smaller than at least one of the fastener openings.

13 (Currently Amended). A steam kettle system, comprising:

a kettle including an upper opening;

an elongated arm;

a steam kettle lid having a central portion, a first side portion, a top, and a bottom, a condensate rim extending from the bottom of the lid along at least the first side portion of the lid, the central portion [non-rotatably] coupled to the arm at an intermediate point along the arm via a floating, non-rotating coupling that prevents significant rotation of the lid to maintain a desired

location of the condensate rim relative to the arm but permits the lid to move slightly in multiple directions to facilitate proper seating on the upper opening of the kettle;

wherein the arm includes a portion extending outward beyond a perimeter of the lid at the first side portion of the lid, such portion being pivoted to permit movement of the lid between a down position in which the lid is substantially horizontal and rests on the upper opening to close the kettle, and an up position in which the lid is angled relative to the horizontal and is raised off of the upper opening to provide access to the kettle, the first side portion of the lid, including the condensate rim, being located below the central portion of the lid when the lid is in the up position such that condensate on the bottom of the lid runs downward toward the condensate rim, off of the condensate rim and into the kettle.

14 (Currently Amended). A steam kettle system, comprising:

a kettle including an upper opening;

an elongated arm;

a steam kettle lid having a central portion, a first side portion, a top, and a bottom, the central portion coupled to the arm at an intermediate point along the arm via a floating coupling that permits movement of the lid in multiple directions, a condensate rim extending from the bottom of the lid along at least the first side portion of the lid;

wherein the arm includes a portion extending outward beyond a perimeter of the lid and connected to provide a pivoting movement of the arm between a down position in which the lid is located substantially horizontal and rests on the upper opening to close the kettle, and an up position in which the lid is angled relative to the horizontal and is raised off of the upper opening to provide access to the kettle;

wherein a rotational position of the lid relative to the arm is substantially fixed so that the first side portion of the lid, including the condensate rim, is located below the central portion of the lid when the arm is in the up position such that condensate on the bottom of the lid runs downward toward the condensate rim, off of the condensate rim and into the kettle.